Value-Added Tax (VAT) system with a single rate is introduced, there would be no need for multiple duty neutralisation schemes. Under the VAT system, it would be possible to rebate all indirect taxes paid by the exporters on the inputs as well as the final products both at the Central and State level. The introduction of national VAT would usher in an era of simple, transparent and automated tax rebates on exports resulting in reduction in transaction time and cost.

Revamping of ITDC Duty Free Shops

4356. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation is revamping its duty-free retail business at Delhi International Airport and is set to launch an exclusive wine corner and perfume and cosmetic boutique;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals that are being worked out;

(c) whether any concrete steps in this regard have been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it is likely to come under operation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to boost up sales and profitability by exploiting the full potential of fast selling items, it has been decided to revamp the ITDC Duty Free Outlet in the first instance at Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi. The works on setting up an exclusive Wine Corner in the main shop and a separate Pefrume & Cosmetic Boutique in the departure lounge are in progress.

(e) The exclusive Wine Corner and Perfume and Cosmetic Boutique are scheduled to be operational by the end of May 2002.

Propagation of Tourism

†4357. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite various efforts, Government have failed to make the historical cities of the country attractive and provide proper facilities and in their propagation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have considering or are considering to provide air travel in a planned manner in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation in view of developing Tourism;

(c) the details of place-wise/region-wise and air services regarding whole country; and

(d) whether Government are considering to propagate and facilitate Allahabad, Ayodhya and other regions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for improvement of tourism infrastructure at destinations identified in consultation with State Governments. Department of Tourism also undertakes the work of promotion and publicity of these places both in the country and abroad.

(b) The Department of Tourism interacts regularly with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for providing better air travel to tourism destinations.

(c) The information is being collected.

(d) Government of India propagates all important tourism destinations in the country.

Development of Tourism in Pondicherry

4358. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are taking steps for making tourism more attractive in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Promotion of tourism is a continuous process. Government of India, Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for projects every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. The